

Testimony in support for Substitute SB 422

Hearing Date: Friday, March 11 at 11:00 AM for SB 422, ***An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water,***

From:

Carole Mulready

25 Montclair Drive

West Hartford, CT 06107

To the Planning and Development Committee:

I write in support of Substitute SB 422 which addresses a number of serious concerns I have regarding the Niagara Bottling Company having access to the water in the public reservoirs managed by Metropolitan District Commission.

I am frankly amazed at the volume of water that could be taken from our water supply by a private, for-profit company. I know we have been fortunate in the last several years to have a sufficient water supply in the greater Hartford MDC District. But I also remember the years in the not too distant past when we have been asked to conserve water because the reservoirs were lower than what is deemed safe. After so little snow this winter, might that happen again this year?

In addition, the price I and others pay to MDC for our water is not discounted! I have been willing to shoulder the increases over the last several years to assure the continuing quality and protection of this irreplaceable resource. And I might note here that on my latest bill after using 5 CCF units, the price I paid for water increased, not decreased. Proposals to grant discounted rates to a profit-making concern which will take millions and millions of gallons on a regular basis is an insult to me as a member of MDC. On my bill there is a clean water project charge every time. My understanding is that water bottlers would get a discount in this charge also. This is the kind of decision that makes me think that my voice is not heard, that my concerns are not considered by entities like MDC that are supposed to be working for me. This quasi-public entity is not living up to the public interest side of its mission in my judgement.

There is no fairness to the public that I can see. I urge your careful consideration for the precedence that could be set here that is not to the advantage of MDC members and ultimately people throughout the state. I urge your vote in support of Substitute Senate Bill 422; it is a vote you take for me.